(ii) Captive plantation on degraded land by the user industries with a view to raising raw materials for their industries;

(iii) Farm forestry/agro-forestry schemes for generating additional income to the individual farmers;

(iv) Nursery schemes to support plantation and afforestation activities;

(v) Tree patta schemes to benefit the permit holders.

As regards plantations for captive use by industries, a minimum area of 5000 hectares (to be taken up over three years) has been stipulated. For cooperatives and private entrepreneurs with tie up with user industry, the stipulated minimum area is 100 hectares.

D.A. to Family Pensioners

5672. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether various Central Administrative Tribunals have directed the Central Government to release forthwith D.A. to the family pensioners who have been appointed on compassionate ground or already in service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stage of implementation at which the matter stands at present ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). As per existing orders, dearness relief on pension/family pension remains suspended during the period the pensioner/family pensioner is employed under the Central or State Government or a Corporation/Company/Body Bank under them in India or abroad including permanant absorption in such organisations. The rationale for this restriction is that a pensioner/family pensioner gets compensated during his employment against price rise by way of D.A. on pay. If dearness relief on pension/family pension is also allowed it will amount to double compensation. Some Central Administrative Tribunals did allow D.R. on pension during employment. However, the Supreme Court vide its judgement dated 8.12.1994 has upheld the Government decision of disallowing D.R. on pension/family pension during the course of employment.

Jute Corporation of India

5673. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to close down Jute Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the future plan to augment the functions of the Jute Corporation of India for the interest of jute growers ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Jute Corporation of India has been instructed to go for Minimum Support Price operation in jute when the need so arise during 1996-97 Jute season.

Excise Duty Benefits to Consumers

5674. SHRI R. DEVADASS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any mechanism to ensure that the benefits of reduction in the excise duty especially relating to consumable goods announced in the budget are passed on to the ultimate user ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the action taken or being taken against companies which do not pass on the entire benefit to consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The prices of commodities are generally determined by market forces and depend on a multiplicity of factors, of which excise duty is only one.

There is no legal mechanism to ensure reduction in price to the extent of reduction in excise duty, where there is no price control.

Sanction of Two Parliamentary Constituencies

5675. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to sanction two Parliamentary Constituencies for Leh and Kargil districts separately in view of vastness of area (about 10,000 sq. km. of Ladakh region);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present there is a Constitutional bar on increasing the existing number of seats allotted to a State in the House of the People.